benefits and many of them are forced to sign on two vouchers, one a blank and another showing an amount decided by the contractor; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take against such inhuman exploitation of labourers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) As per information received from the respective Governments as well as from Noida Special Economic Zone some complaints have been received from all categories of workers including contract workers of all units including exporting units in NOIDA and OKHLA, New Delhi in regard to minimum wages, Bonus, ESI, Provident Fund and other benefits. However, complaints alleging that the workers are forced to sign two vouchers one blank and another showing the amount decided by the contractor, has not been reported.

(b) On receipt of the complaints, the same are investigated and remedial action is taken. The Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), Noida Special Economic Zone and the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and National Capital Territory of Delhi have been requested to conduct special drives in these areas for ensuring compliance with the various labour laws.

Toilet facilities for women workers at work places

452. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic working conditions of women in the informal sectors where no separate toilets exist for the women workers who have to work for longer hours without proper rest; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are going to take against such barbarity on women workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the need to ameliorate the working conditions of women workers.

Several laws have been enacted to secure reasonable working conditions for women workers and to prevent their exploitation. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the Inter-State

Migrant workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Building and Other Construction (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, etc. which provide *inter alia,* creche facilities for the benefit of women workers, time off for feeding children during working hours, provision of maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female and male workers near the workplace. The various State Governments are the appropriate agencies for enforcing these laws.

Special Economic Zones to attract foreign investment

453. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to set up Special Economic Zones in all State capitals to attract foreign investment from NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any such Special Economic Zones in any State Capital already in operation;

(d) what would be the capital outlay on this investment by Government; and

(e) the schedule of taking up this work by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There is at present no SEZ in any State Capital exclusively for NRIs, however setting up of such Economic Zones to attract foreign investment from NRIs is under consideration.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Dual citizenship to NRIs

†454. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of NON-RESIDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such countries whose Non-Resident Indians have been provided with dual citizenship;

(b) the criteria fixed for providing dual citizenship;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.